

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:
 - 2 a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search criteria;
 - 4 b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts related to the entity;
 - 5 c. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one information source;
 - 7 d. selecting features from the information retrieved at steps a and c to identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and
 - 9 e. structuring the identified concepts within each context.
- 1 2. The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the step of structuring the identified concepts is done by classifying the concepts into at least one of a set comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the identified context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both entity and the identified context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of concepts that are common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative of the identified context.
- 1 3. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of ranking the concepts within each set.
- 1 4. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of presenting top ranked concepts within each set.
- 1 5. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:

- a. identifying contexts associated with the entity;
 - b. retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one information source;
 - c. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and
 - d. structuring the identified concepts within each context.
6. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding prominent nodes, that contain the entity, in an ontology or a taxonomy.
7. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by using at least one of synonyms, hypernyms, hyponyms, and meronyms of the entity found in a thesaurus.
8. The method as recited in claim 5 wherein the contexts are identified by finding a set of the words or phrases that occur frequently with the entity and that mutually do not appear together in documents in the information source.
9. A system for profiling an entity, the system comprising:
 - a. means for retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search criteria;
 - b. means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify contexts related to the entity;
 - c. means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified context from at least one information source;
 - d. means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and

10 e. means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 9 wherein the means for structuring the identified concepts
2 comprises:

3 a. means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each entity-context
4 pair; and

5 b. means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1 11. The system as recited in claim 10 further comprising means for presenting top ranked
2 concepts within each set.

1 12. A computer program product for profiling an entity, the computer program product
2 comprising:

3 a. program instruction means for retrieving information from at least one information source
4 using the entity as search criteria;

5 b. program instruction means for clustering the retrieved information in order to identify
6 contexts related to the entity;

7 c. program instruction means for retrieving information corresponding to each identified
8 context from at least one information source;

9 d. program instruction means for selecting features from the retrieved information in order to
10 identify concepts associated with the entity within each identified context; and

11 e. program instruction means for structuring the identified concepts within each context.

1 13. The computer program product as recited in claim 12 wherein the program instruction means
2 for structuring the identified concepts comprises:

- 3 a. program instruction means for classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to
4 each entity-context pair; and
5 b. program instruction means for ranking the concepts within each set.

1 14. The computer program product as recited in claim 13 further comprising program instruction
2 means for presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

- 1 15. A method of profiling an entity, the method comprising the steps of:
2 a. retrieving information from at least one information source using the entity as search
3 criteria;
4 b. clustering the retrieved information to identify contexts;
5 c. retrieving information corresponding to the entity and each identified context from at least
6 one information source;
7 d. selecting features from the retrieved information to identify concepts associated with the
8 entity within each identified context;
9 e. classifying the identified concepts into sets with respect to each identified entity context
10 pair;
11 f. ranking the concepts within each set; and
12 g. presenting top ranked concepts within each set.

1 16. The method as recited in claim 15 wherein the concepts are classified into at least one of a set
2 comprising of concepts that are exclusive to the entity, a set comprising of concepts that are
3 exclusive to the identified context, a set comprising of concepts that are common to both
4 entity and the identified context but more representative of the entity, and a set comprising of
5 concepts that are common to both the entity and the identified context but more representative
6 of the identified context.